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OLC 77-1556

20 April 1977

MR
SSCI
77-0532/7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Majority and Minority Staff Directors,
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, on
the Wilson Case

1. At noon today, John Waller, IG, and I met with Bill Miller and Earl Eisenhower, Majority and Minority Staff Directors, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, to brief them on the Wilson case. The meeting was stimulated in part by a request from Mike Madigan, also of the Committee staff, (who will be leaving the staff on 30 April) for access to Agency files on Wilson. When we consulted with Bill Miller on Madigan's request, he agreed to our suggestion that we brief Miller, Eisenhower and Madigan on the facts as a first step in the procedure. Madigan was not in attendance at the meeting today.

2. Mr. Waller briefed Miller and Eisenhower on the facts of the Wilson case as we know them, pointing out that we had briefed the Select Committee staff and key staff members of our three other oversight committees on our original information on Wilson's involvement in the supplying of arms ammunition to terrorists in Libya in October of last year. Mr. Waller brought the case up-to-date, including Bob Woodward's, of the Washington Post, statement to Herbert Hetu, Office of Public Affairs, that three CIA officials have had business or social relations with Wilson or associates of Wilson's. Mr. Waller also pointed out as soon as we first received information of Wilson's activities last Autumn (September), we asked the FBI to investigate the case and also notified the Intelligence Oversight Board in addition to notifying the four primary oversight committees of the Congress.

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3. At the conclusion of the briefing (at approximately 2:00 p.m.), Miller said he thought the full Committee would want to receive a briefing along the lines of the briefing Mr. Waller had just given them. He said the Committee would obviously be interested in this and we all agreed that the current interest of Bob Woodward in this subject, along with our understanding of Woodward preparing a second article on this case, would put considerable pressure on the Committee and the Agency. Miller speculated that other members of the Senate will accuse the Committee of not taking any action on the Letelier allegations and this will only make matters worse.

4. Mr. Waller indicated that while he certainly had no objection to briefing the Committee, he felt the Committee should contact the FBI and the Justice Department since our information was limited to investigations which we had conducted with respect to current Agency employees. (Mr. Waller made this suggestion several times during the course of the briefing.) Miller did not react to this suggestion, however, but said he thought the Director should come before the Committee to discuss "the problem of some of our ex-Agency employees." I again suggested that if the Committee wanted to be in the best position to react when the next Woodward article hits, it would seem to me this would best be accomplished by going directly to the FBI and the Justice Department as Mr. Waller suggested since a response to the press that they were looking into the matter with the Agency could be of little value to them, but on the other hand, if they could say they contacted the FBI and the Justice Department and that they were working with those organizations in attempting to reach some conclusions, they would be in a better posture. Eisenhower picked up the suggestion at this point and told Miller that he definitely thought this ought to be done. The only outstanding question was one raised by Bill Miller as to whether there was any connection between Wilson [redacted]

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5. We left without establishing any firm date for the Director, or his representative, to meet with the Committee but Mr. Waller and I indicated that we would advise the Director of the Staff's feelings on the matter and be back in touch with them.

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[redacted]

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